

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCCT-01 SY-04 FBIE-00 NIC-01

AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

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P 271623Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7105

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 5068

E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PORS, ES

SUBJ: BOMBING INCIDENTS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

REF: SAN SALVADOR 5047

1. GOES CLAIMS THAT EIGHT EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WENT OFF IN EARLY MORNING HOURS OF DEC 26 CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS INVOLVED BUT NO KNOWN PERSONAL INJURIES. ONE OF THE BOMBS, ALL OF WHICH DETONATED WITHIN FIVE MINUTE PERIOD (2:10-2:15 AM), RIPPED INTERIOR AND CEILING OF SAN SALVADOR HEADQUARTERS OF OFICINA DE MEJORAMIENTO DE LAS COMUNIDADES MARGINALES (ONCOM), THE GOES INSTRUMENT, UNDER MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY, FOR IMPROVING THE LOT OF URBAN POOR. OTHER EXPLOSIONS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO SANTA TECLA HEADQUARTERS OF PARTIDO DE CONCILIACION NACIONAL (PCN), THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PARTY; PCN HEADQUARTERS IN SANTA ANA; TWO LOCAL OFFICES (SAN VICENTE AND SAN MIGUEL OF FOCCO (THE RURAL EQUIVALENT OF OMCOM); AND A NATIONAL GUARD POST IN ZACATECOLUCAS.

2. EXPLOSIONS, COMING AT TIME OF YEAR NORMALLY SATURATED WITH HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS OF FIREWORKS, WERE NEVERTHELESS OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE TO OVERWHELM SUCH COMPETITION IN SAN SALVADOR AND SANTA TECLA, AND
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BE RECOGNIZED AS WHAT THEY WERE BY MANY WHO RAISED FROM TWO AM

SLEEP.

3. GOES SPOKESMEN ON NEXT MORNING BROADCASTS CLAIMED THAT MARXIST-LENINIST PROPAGANDA MATERIAL DISCOVERED AT OMCOM SITE. DATT SOURCE AND PM PAPERS SAY LEAFLET CLAIMED CREDIT BY FUERZAS POPULARES DE LIBERACION (FPL). MARIO BARRIERA, OMCOM DIRECTOR AND SPOKESMAN, CONDEMNED WHAT HE TERMED "THIS CLANDESTINE MARXIST-LENINIST EFFORT, WHICH IS IN OBVIOUS RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE CITY'S MARGINALES". HE AND OTHER GOES SPOKESMEN HAVE OPINED THAT THIS WAS REVOLUTIONARIES' DIRECT ANSWER TO PRESIDENT MOLINA'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE WHICH OFFERED PROMISE OF BETTER LIFE TO NATION'S POOR. (SEE REFTTEL).

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS TRYING TO ASCERTAIN WHAT FACTS OF SERIES OF THIS BOMBING INCIDENTS ARE. ALL TARGETS HAVE HIGH SYMBOLIC VALUE AS INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT. OMCOM AND FOCCO, WITH IMAGES AMONG MANY OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES AS GOVERNMENT ORGANS OF CONTROL, RATHER

THAN BENEFACTORS, SOMEWHAT MORE SUBTLE SYMBOL THAN PCN HEAD-QUARTERS. POSSIBILITY OF OTHER THAN TERRORIST AUTHORSHIP OF INCIDENTS CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED. EMBASSY WILL PURSUE AND REPORT. CAMPBELL

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